

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 11-13 and 21 are amended; and claims 58 and 59 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.


The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 12, 14-16, 19, 23-26, 30, 36, 39, 41, 44, 46, 53, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,353,267) in view of Sahara (U.S. Patent No. 6,713,880); rejects claims 5, 20 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohuchi in view of Sahara and further in view of Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,365); rejects claims 3, 7-10, 13, 17, 18, 27, 29, 31-35, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 47-52, 54 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohuchi in view of Sahara and further in view of Ogawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,418,284); rejects claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohuchi in view of Sahara and Ogawa and further in view of Tomita; rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohuchi in view of Ohuchi II (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,222); and rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohuchi in view of Ohuchi II and further in view of Takeuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,474). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, independent claims 1, 2, 3, 11-13 and 21 incorporate the allowable subject matter of either claim 58 or 59. Therefore, independent claims 1, 2, 3, 11-13 and 21 define patentable subject matter. Claims 4-10, 14-20 and 22-57 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-57 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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